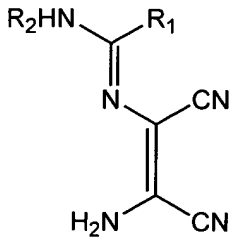
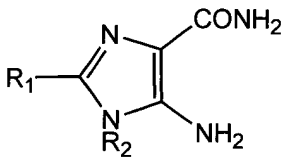
1. (Amended) A process for the preparation characterized in that a compound represented by formula (II):



(II)

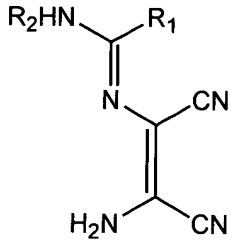
wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group of C_1 to C_{10} which may have substituents, a hydrocarbon group of C_3 to C_{14} having alicyclic skeletons, an alkynyl group which may have substituents, an aryl group which may have substituents, an aralkyl group which may have substituents, a heterocyclic group which may have substituents, a heterocyclic alkyl group which may have substituents, an N-unsubstituted or substituted carbamoyl group, or an alkoxycarbonyl group and/or an inorganic salt thereof are cyclized and hydrolyzed in an aqueous basic solution involving 1-10 moles of a basic compound per 1 mole of the compound represented by formula (II), in a process for preparing a compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein R_1 and R_2 are the same as defined above.

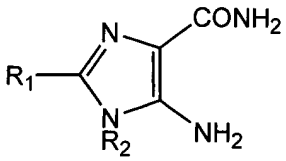
2. (Amended) A process for the preparation characterized in that a compound represented by formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group of C_1 to C_{10} which may have substituents, a hydrocarbon group of C_3 to C_{14} having alicyclic skeletons, an alkynyl group which may have substituents, an aryl group which may have substituents, an aralkyl group which may have substituents, a heterocyclic group which may have substituents, a heterocyclic alkyl group which may have substituents, an N-unsubstituted or substituted carbamoyl group, or an alkoxycarbonyl group; and R_2 represents a hydrogen atom and/or in inorganic salt thereof are cyclized/ hydrolyzed in an aqueous basic solution involving 1-10 moles of a basic compound per 1 mole of the compound represented by formula (II), followed by adjusting

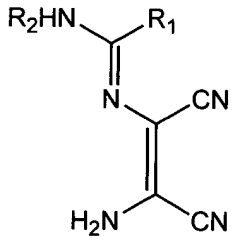
the pH to the isoelectric point to precipitate crystal in a process for preparing a compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

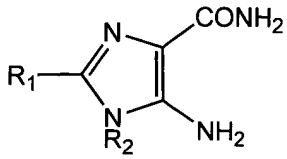
wherein R_1 and R_2 represent the same as defined above.

3. (Amended) A process for the preparation characterized in that a compound represented by formula (II):



(II)

wherein R_1 represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group of C_1 to C_{10} which may have substituents, a hydrocarbon group of C_3 to C_{14} having alicyclic skeletons, an alkynyl group which may have substituents, an aryl group which may have substituents, an aralkyl group which may have substituents, a heterocyclic group which may have substituents, a heterocyclic alkyl group which may have substituents, an N-unsubstituted or substituted carbamoyl group, or an alkoxycarbonyl group; and R_2 represents a hydrogen atom and/or an inorganic salt thereof are cyclized/ hydrolyzed in an aqueous basic solution involving 1-10 moles of a basic compound per 1 mole of the compound represented by formula (II), followed by adjusting the pH to 9 to 13 to precipitate crystal in a process for preparing a compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

wherein R_1 and R_2 represent the same as defined above.

15. (Amended) The process for the preparation according to any one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein R_1 in formulae (I) through (II) is

a hydrogen atom,

an unsubstituted alkyl group of C_1 to C_{10} having straight or branched chains,

an alkyl group having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, hydroxyl, alkoxy, acyloxy, carbamoyl, oxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, amino groups,

a hydrocarbon group of C_3 to C_{14} having alicyclic skeletons,

an unsubstituted alkenyl group of C_1 to C_{10} having straight or branched chains,

an alkenyl group having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, hydroxyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl groups,

an unsubstituted alkynyl group of C_1 to C_{10} having straight or branched chains,

an alkynyl group having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, hydroxyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl groups,

a phenyl group,

a phenyl group substituted with halogen atoms, alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heterocyclic, aralkyl, heterocyclic alkyl groups,

an unsubstituted aralkyl group having straight or branched chains,

an aralkyl group having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heterocyclic, aralkyl, heterocyclic alkyl groups,

an unsubstituted heterocyclic group,

a heterocyclic group substituted with halogen atoms, alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heterocyclic, aralkyl, heterocyclic alkyl groups,

an unsubstituted heterocyclic alkyl group having straight or branched chains,

a heterocyclic alkyl group having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heterocyclic, aralkyl, heterocyclic alkyl groups,

an N-unsubstituted or substituted carbamoyl group,

or an alkoxycarbonyl group

16. (Amended) The process for the preparation according to Claim 1 wherein R_2 in formulae (I) and (II) is

an unsubstituted alkyl group of C_1 to C_{10} having straight or branched chains,

an alkyl group having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, hydroxyl, alkoxy, acyloxy, carbamoyloxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, amino groups,

a hydrocarbon group of C_3 to C_{14} having alicyclic skeletons,

an unsubstituted alkenyl group of C_1 to C_{10} having straight or branched chains,

an alkenyl group of C_1 to C_{10} having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, hydroxyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl groups,

an unsubstituted alkynyl group of C_1 to C_{10} having straight or branched chains,

an alkynyl group having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, hydroxyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl groups,

a phenyl group

a phenyl group substituted with halogen atoms, alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heterocyclic, aralkyl, heterocyclic alkyl groups,

an unsubstituted aralkyl group having straight or branched chains,

an aralkyl group having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heterocyclic, aralkyl, heterocyclic alkyl groups,

an unsubstituted heterocyclic group,

a heterocyclic group substituted with halogen atoms, alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heterocyclic, aralkyl, heterocyclic alkyl groups,

an unsubstituted heterocyclic alkyl group having straight or branched chains,

a heterocyclic alkyl group having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, alkyl, alkoxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, heterocyclic, aralkyl, heterocyclic alkyl groups,

an N-unsubstituted or substituted carbamoyl group,

or an alkoxycarbonyl group.

17. (Amended) The process for preparation according to any one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein R_1 in formulae (I) through (II) is

a hydrogen atom,

an unsubstituted alkyl group of C_1 to C_{10} having straight or branched chains,

an alkyl group having straight or branched chains substituted with halogen atoms, hydroxyl, alkoxy, acyloxy, carbamoyloxy, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, amino groups.

18. (Amended) The process for the preparation according to any one of Claims 1 through 3, wherein R_1 in general formulae (I) through (II) is an unsubstituted alkyl group of C_1 to C_{10} having straight or branched chains.